

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XX

ASHLAND, O., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1898

No. 5

## Editorial

### A Correction

On page 20 of the *Quarterly* under "Helps in Studying the Lesson," the columns should exchange places. In reading the notes begin at the top of the right hand column instead of the left. The last comes first and the first last, which while according to scripture, is in this case not as it should be. Teachers and superintendents are requested to call attention of schools to this correction.

### All of Them on Time

Toward the close of last year we were so crowded that it was impossible to get all our papers out on time. We are glad to report that thus far in the new year all our papers have gone out strictly on time and some of them ahead of time. *Our Little Folks* for the month of February were mailed some time ago while those for March (except the last number) will be mailed next week. If any of our schools are not getting this paper as ordered they have ample time to write us and all mistakes can be corrected. If you do not have all the numbers of *Our Little Folks* for February you are not likely to get them unless you write us as the mailing of them has been attended to. *Cheering Words* for the two last Sundays in this month go out this week. The *EVANGELIST* has been mailed each Wednesday evening in the new year and we hope to be able to continue the same during the entire year. There is no reason why you should not be getting your paper regularly now, and so far as we know you are. All our readers east of the Missouri river should get the paper the same week it is mailed, except of course at places where mail is delivered only three or four times a week.

### Paying the Preacher

There are too many people in our churches who seem to think that what they owe the preacher is an obligation which does not come under Paul's injunction, "Owe no man anything." Rather they do not regard what is due the preacher on salary as an obligation at all, at least not in the light they regard other obligations. The *Washington Post*, a secular paper gives a timely hint as follows: "If there is one thing in which churches, as a rule, need to be more careful, it is in this matter of pastor's salaries. With an indifference and an insensibility which we cannot understand many churches seem to think that a contract between themselves and their min-

ister is no contract at all. They promise him a definite salary, and then pay him whatever is convenient. The gas man, the coal man, and even the sexton, must be paid, but the debt owing to the minister is looked upon as altogether righteous and proper."

### Queries and Answers

We shall be glad to continue "Queries and Answers" on our editorial page if our readers will kindly furnish us with the queries. Sometimes Sunday-school teachers and superintendents are puzzled as to the meaning of certain passages of scripture in the lesson. If they will let us know what their difficulties are in the form of a question, we shall endeavor to answer in this department. Perhaps other passages of scripture have troubled you as to their meaning. Let us know what they are and we think we can be helpful to you. Any other reasonable question will receive attention in this department, but of course it can be continued only in case queries are sent in.

### Dearth in Church News

There seems to be a dearth in church news just at this time. Why this should be so we are not able to say. Our pastors should remember that there are other matters of interest to the church at large besides accessions to the church. Very seldom do we hear from any congregation unless there have been additions. This is not as it should be. Surely numbers is not the only thing worth reporting. A brief report of a Sabbath morning service, a service characterized by a deep spirituality, a service which gave new hope to your people, which awakened some indifferent church member and gave him an inspiration for a higher and more spiritual life, such a report may be of as much interest as the report of large accessions to the church. A deeper work of grace in the heart of church members and a more thorough consecration of their all to the Master, is as verily a matter for rejoicing as the addition of members to the church.

### Opportunities for Bible Study

We are a Bible people, and we ought to be more of a Bible reading people than we are. Ample provision is made in the columns of this paper for those who desire help in the study of the blessed Word of God. First is our young people's department in which appear each week notes on the topics for the regular Sabbath evening study. These notes are prepared by Brother Yoder

who is giving special attention to this work. They are full and complete, yet not too lengthy. If you have not been in the habit of using these notes, try them. It is in this way that you will learn how helpful they are. With these helps most any one can successfully lead the young people's service. Then again we give each week an entire page to the inter-national Sunday-school lesson. Teachers and superintendents will find these weekly notes and application of the lesson very helpful in their work. Lastly is our Bible School department. In this department are weekly outline prayer meeting topics prepared by Brother Gillin who has himself used the topics in his own congregation with great success. We also give outline studies in the Old Testament, prepared by Brother Miller than whom no other is better qualified for that work. These outlines if followed will prove a great help to those who wish to become more familiar with the rich treasures of the Old Testament scriptures. There are also each week Sermons in Quaint Texts in this department, which however, are purely homiletical. With all these scripture outline studies and notes on texts, the ordinary reader has about all he needs to thoroughly equip him for the work to which the Sunday-school or young people's society may call him. Be sure to use these helps. Later we expect to enlarge these departments and give special attention to scripture exposition, that, is of such scriptures that are not generally understood, or which are wrongly applied. It is a hopeful sign that the Bible is more closely studied today than ever before. Men and women are eager to learn "the way of the Lord more perfectly."

### A Few Plain Rules

Those who are not contributors to this paper and who do not intend to be, need not read these rules. They are intended for contributors. Will you please observe them? 1. Do not write with pencil. Again and again we have called attention to the fact that pencil written copy is not desirable, but it seems that our request is not heeded. Recently a brother wrote us asking why his last contribution has not yet appeared. The answer is, because it is written with pencil on very poor paper and much of it two lines crowded into one. It is scarcely readable. Have you no regard for the eyes of our compositors? Why not write with pen and ink? Please brethren, do not write with pencil. It makes us much extra work and we are already over-burdened. 2. Do not